

Unit 4: Ancient Rome

Ancient Rome



Geography: The Italian Peninsula



How would geography have impacted early Italy?

Geographical Factors to the Rise of Ancient Rome

- Link between Europe and Africa: Italian Peninsula is central in Mediterranean world (halfway between east and west)
- Seclusion: rugged mountains separate northern Italy from the rest of Europe which provide good protection but made communication difficult
- Agricultural Climate: mild climate, fertile land, river beds, volcanic soil, mountain deposits
- Rivers: Po and Tiber allowed for transport and created borders from other peoples

Etruscans

- First inhabitants of Northern Italy c. 750 BCE
- Conquered Rome around 600 BCE
- Skilled artisans, farmers and accomplished traders
- In Rome, the Etruscans dug an enormous ditch (Great Sewer) to create a drained area named the Forum
- contributed to the rise of Rome and culture



Etruscan Monarchy



- First Etruscan King was Romulus
- Etruscans expanded power and took control over Romans
- Last Etruscan King was Tarquin the Proud= expelled by a popular rebellion in 509 BCE due to a scandal and his terrorizing reign
- Romans did not want to be ruled by kings anymore
- Paved way for Rome to create a democratic republic
- Etruscan influence on Romans: alphabet, arch, numerals, blood sports, politics (purple robes) and symbol of fasces

Roman Forum (then and now)



The Roman Forum was the political and economic centre of Rome during the Republic.

It became the heart of Rome where people met to talk, trade, govern and worship





ROME

Ancient Rome

Examining the Roman
Republic

The Roman Republic

- ♦ The last king of Rome was Tarquin the Proud
- ♦ A harsh tyrant, he was driven from power in 509 BCE
- ♦ The Romans declared they would never again be ruled by a king
- ♦ Instead, they established a republic, from the Latin phrase “res publica,” which means “public affairs.”

The Roman Republic

- ♦ A republic is a form of government in which power rests with citizens who have the right to vote for their leaders
- ♦ In Rome, citizenship with voting rights was granted only to free-born male citizens.



The Roman Republic

- ♦ Patricians and Plebeians In the early republic, different groups of Romans struggled for power.
- ♦ One group was the patricians, the wealthy landowners who held most of the power.
- ♦ The other important group was the plebeians, the common farmers, artisans, and merchants who made up the majority of the population



Power in the Roman Republic

Patricians

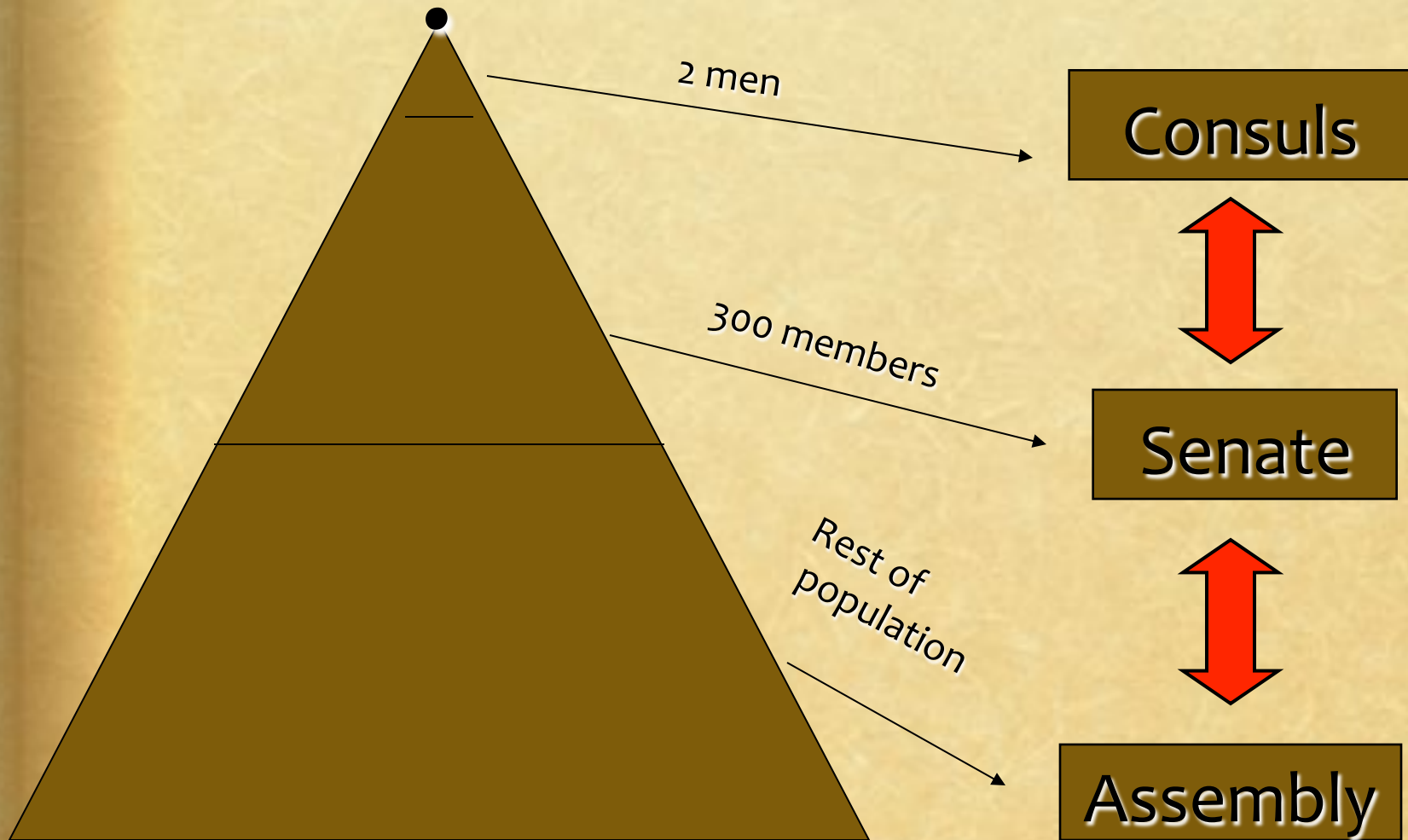
Plebeians

Slaves



How the Republic Works

Division of Power



Assembly

4 different Assemblies

[1] Comitia Curiata (Assembly of Curiate)

- 30 divisions of citizens from three tribes of Rome (Ramnes, Luceres, and Tities)
- Role of the Comitia Curiata was to attend the confirmation of the Consuls, and more formal roles like witnessing adoptions and the creation of wills

Assembly

4 different Assemblies

[2] Comitia Tributa (Assembly of Tribes)

- **Consisted of all the people who were allowed to vote (all tribes of Rome)**
- **Role was to pass laws on behalf of the people**
- **Elected the Quaestors and the Curulian Aediles**

Assembly

4 different Assemblies

[3]Comitia Centuriata (Assembly of Centuries)

- **Important assembly of all male citizens segregated into 5 electoral classes according to wealth**
- **Passed laws presented to it by the senior magistrates, elect the Censors, Praetors and Consuls, decided on war and peace,**

Assembly

4 different Assemblies

[4] Concilium Plebis (Plebian Tribal Council)

- Role was to pass laws that were legally binding to all citizens
- Elect the Plebian Aediles and Popular Tribunes
- Plebian Aediles role was to take care of maintenance of public buildings, and regulation of public buildings

Assembly

4 different Assemblies

[4] Concilium Plebis (Plebian Tribal Council)

- Popular Tribunes
- Role was to protect the people's rights
- They were allowed to veto the decisions made by the Consuls

Consuls

1. Top government official
2. Two chosen every year
3. Headed the army and ran the government
4. Served short term....avoided risk of abusing power
5. Elected by the Comitia Centuriatia
6. At times of Crisis were able to appoint a **Dictator (during war times)**



Praetors

1. Second most powerful in the state
2. Administration of Justice in Rome
3. One Praetor handles Judiciary, and one specifically handles relations between Romans and Non-Romans
4. Also elected by the Comitia Centuritia



Censors

1. Hold office for 5 years
2. Draw up revised lists of citizens
3. Voted in by the Comitia Centuritia



Curulian Aediles

1. Responsibility is to assist the Consuls
2. Responsible for such things as maintenance of roads in the cities, public executions and water



Senate

Latin for "old men"

1. 300 men
2. Chosen for life
3. Advise Consul
4. Deal with other countries
5. Proposes laws
6. Approve public works
7. Deal with daily government problems

